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Panther Sports News

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March 4, 1982
LS-AS-Wrestling
-Hometowns

PANTHER WRESTLING REPORT

THE TOURNAMENT: Eastern Illinois University will wrestle in the NCAA Division I Championship Thursday through Saturday (March 11-13) at Iowa State University's Hilton Coliseum in Ames, IA.

NATIONAL QUALIFIERS:

| | | | |
|-----|------------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| 118 | Randy Blackman | 17-3 | River Grove (East Leyden) |
| 126 | Derek Porter | 25-3 | Mims, FL (Titusville) |
| 142 | Rich Brown | 16-7 | Franklin Park (East Leyden/Triton JC) |
| 158 | Mike Polz | 17-2 | Riverside (R.-Brookfield) |
| 167 | Mark Gronowski | 15-1 | Titusville, FL |
| 177 | Dennis McCormick | 21-6 | Springfield (Springfield) |
| 190 | Geno Savegnago | 24-3 | Carol Stream (Glenbard North) |

EIU FACTS: The Panthers head into the finals after their most impressive outing finishing second in the NCAA Midwest Regional . . . this is the most wrestlers EIU has ever advanced to the Division I finale . . . Porter, Gronowski and McCormick each won their weight class in the regional while Blackman and Savegnago were second . . . EIU was second to Mid-Continent Conference comrade Northern Iowa . . . in its most recent publication, Wrestling USA ranked the Panthers 8th in the nation . . . Amateur Wrestling News had EIU 20th entering the regional . . . Savegnago was ranked No. 4 in the nation while Gronowski and Porter were both in the top ten.

NCAA I CHAMPIONSHIP EXPERIENCE: Six of the Panther qualifiers have previously wrestled in Division I action through qualification in Division II championships . . . the six are Blackman, Porter, Polz, Gronowski, McCormick and Savegnago . . . this will be the 4th appearance for Savegnago who has been an All-American all three years . . . last year he finished 3rd in the nation . . . he is going for his 7th All-American award counting his Division II honors . . . it is the second time around for the other five who did not place at Division I.

COACH RON CLINTON: "Last weekend's performance was simply outstanding . . . we wrestled to our ability . . . we really didn't upset anyone . . . we just wrestled to our capability . . . we are not only physically 100% but mentally, too . . . doing well at the Midwest Regional really gave a lot of credibility to our program in the eyes of the Division I schools there . . . our men are excited about what's happening and it's become a matter of holding them back so they don't drain themselves emotionally before the championship . . . we could conceivably finish in the Top 10 at the tournament . . . our strongest bet is Geno (Savegnago) and Mark Gronowski . . . Gronowski is as hot as any wrestler at 167 so he has as good a shot as anyone to win or at least place in the top four . . . our Division I experience is really showing through . . . it's just a matter of who wants it the worst."